

VII

THE ADVANCE OF NATURALISM

1877-1881

" Une Page d'Amour " — The portrayal of Love — Zola buys a house at Medan — His play, " Le Bouton de Rose " — He is accused of stealing the plot of " Une Page d'Amour " — He attacks contemporary French novelists — Opinions of Feuillet and Dumas *fits* on Zola — "The Republic and Literature"—Zola and the Legion of Honour — Flaubert and "Bouvard"—
A Cabinet Council negatives the decoration of Zola — " L'Assommoir " as a play — Zola and Mr. George Moore — The effect of affluence on Zola
— The transformation of Medan — Zola's studies — Humanitarianism enters into his literary conceptions—Scientific fiction and its aim — Preparations for "Nana"— La Paiva — The courtesans of the Second Empire—"Fana" is published in " Le Voltaire " — The facial mask of small-pox—" Fana " as a book — Idealism and Naturalism: attractive and repulsive vice—" Les Soirees de Medan " — Maupassant's " Boule de Suif "—Hereditary insanity and strong passions — Death of Gustavo Flaubert—Zola's essay on Flaubert — Death of Zola's mother — His campaign in "Le Figaro" — His attack on Hugo's "L'Ane" — He assails Gambetta—His article on " Drunken Slaves " and defence of " L'Assommoir " — " *Isa. ua* " as a play — Leonie Massin plays Nana in real life as well as on the stage — Zola's "Romanciers Naturalistes," "Documents Littéraires," "Naturalisme au Theatre" and "Auteurs Dramatiques" — His life of unflagging industry.

AT an early period of the controversies provoked by " L'Assommoir," that is when its publication had been transferred to "Le Bien Public," Zola quitted Paris for L'Estaque, a tiny village nestling below precipitous mountains on the shore of the Golfe des Crottes, beyond which spreads the Mediterranean, with the various islands, including the Chateau d'If of " Monte Cristo/" which mark

the approach
to the port of Marseilles. In this quiet retreat,
where life
among the tunny-fishers was rather primitive,
the novelist